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Conservation Commission Minutes 12/02/2010

Arlington Conservation Commission
 Minutes
 December 2, 2010

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Charles Tirone, Ellen Reed, Curt Connors and Catherine Garnett of the Commission. David White of the Commission was not in attendance. Brad Barber, Tim Williams and Richard Vallarelli, Jr. were also in attendance.

7:45 pm – Commission Business

Mr. Barber asked the Commission to write a letter to the Advocate making clarifications to a letter just published regard the acquisition of Elizabeth Island. The clarifications had to do with further work on invasive plants on Spy Pond.

Connors/Tirone motioned to approve the 11/18 minutes as edited; motion passed unanimously.

7:45pm - Executive Session - session was not conducted, this item was continued to 12/16 at 7:45pm

8pm Notice of Intent – 30-50 Mill St apartment building

This hearing was continued from 11/18.

Reed/Connors motioned to continue this hearing, at the applicant's request, to 12/16/10 at 8pm; motion passed unanimously.

8:15pm Discussion – Green Burials

Mr. Stevens received an email from Michelle Hassler of the Cemetery Commission confirming details of the use of cremains only in the rear section of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery section G-G. The Commission confirmed such use.

8:30pm Discussion – additional work at 50 Lowell St

Tim Williams, of Allen and Major, presented information on an additional 48 foot section of pipe culvert that is seriously deteriorated and needs to be replaced. The work area will include dewatering a short section of the open Mill Brook. The dewatering will be conducted with sand bags and only be needed for a few days. The headwall will also be rebuilt. The revised plan sheet also shows a new drain manhole at the bend between two sections of pipe culvert.

Mr. Tirone asked if the headwall would need anchoring from snow plows and if any drainage improvements were possible with additional curbing.

The applicants asked if these changes could be considered minor enough to be administratively approved. They are ready to do the work as soon as the approval is complete and it would only take a couple of days to complete.

Ms. Beckwith drafted a letter of approval with conditions that included coordinating the dewatering plan with the Engineering Department, photographing the open stream section, requiring replacement of soil, stone or plants, if impacted negatively. The Commission added that the letter should contain a full description of all work items and add the conditions to retain the environmental monitor and provide details of the new manhole and the headwall in the as-built plans.

The Commission discussed whether it was appropriate to amend the permit in this manner considering the size and scope of the additional items. Mr. Tirone suggested two other methods, an after-the-fact permit amendment and or a full project amendment. The question of whether public notice and in what form those would include was also discussed at length.

Reed/Garnett motioned to approve the additional work with the additional conditions and issue a letter of approval; motion passed

with Mr. Connors, Ms. Garnett, Ms. Reed and Mr. Stevens voting in favor and Mr. Tirone voting in opposition.

8:45pm Presentation – photos of Spy Pond. This topic was tabled to a future date

9pm Amendments to Bylaw Regulations

Ms. Garnett presented revised planting regulations and Mr. Stevens submitted emergency certification regulations for further review. White/Reed motioned to continue this item to 12/16 at 8:30pm; motion passed unanimously.

Commission Business (cont.)

The Commission reviewed materials submitted by the builder of the new house at 14 Reed St for a Certificate of Compliance. The Commission reviewed the as-built plans but the information on the planting area was difficult to confirm. Mr. Dolan is obtaining a letter of completion from LEC in regards to the Buffer Zone enhancement planting area. Ms. Reed thought it also prudent to meet with the new owner of 18 Reed St and explain the easement. The matter was continued to the next Commission meeting on 12/16.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator